

Chapter 3: Population Element

3.1 Vision Statement

“The Population Element of the Comprehensive Plan serves to identify the historical population trends, evaluates the current population statistics, and projects the rate of increase for the future population”

The Population Element reports the demographic trends of Greenwood County and its cities and towns and how they compare to both the Upper Savannah Region and the State of South Carolina. Statistics and data were obtained primarily from the United States Census Bureau and the State of South Carolina.

The Population Element is divided into subsections providing detailed information regarding population, age, race, income, poverty, education, and population growth projections of the Upper Savannah Region, Greenwood County, and the cities within Greenwood County. The Population Element is concluded with an overview of the findings.

3.2 The Upper Savannah Region

The Upper Savannah Region of South Carolina is a regional grouping of six counties located on the central northwest border of South Carolina and Georgia and within the confines of four urban areas: Anderson, Greenville, Columbia, and Augusta. The counties that make up the Upper Savannah Region are: Abbeville, Laurens, McCormick, Edgefield, Saluda, and Greenwood Counties.

3.2.1. Population

The Upper Savannah Region has experienced a 26% increase in population between 1980 and 2006. The population of the Upper Savannah Region in 1980 was approximately 174,163 persons and in 2006 the population was approximately 219,068 persons (See Figure 3-1).

Figure 3-1: Upper Savannah Region Population, 1980 - 2006

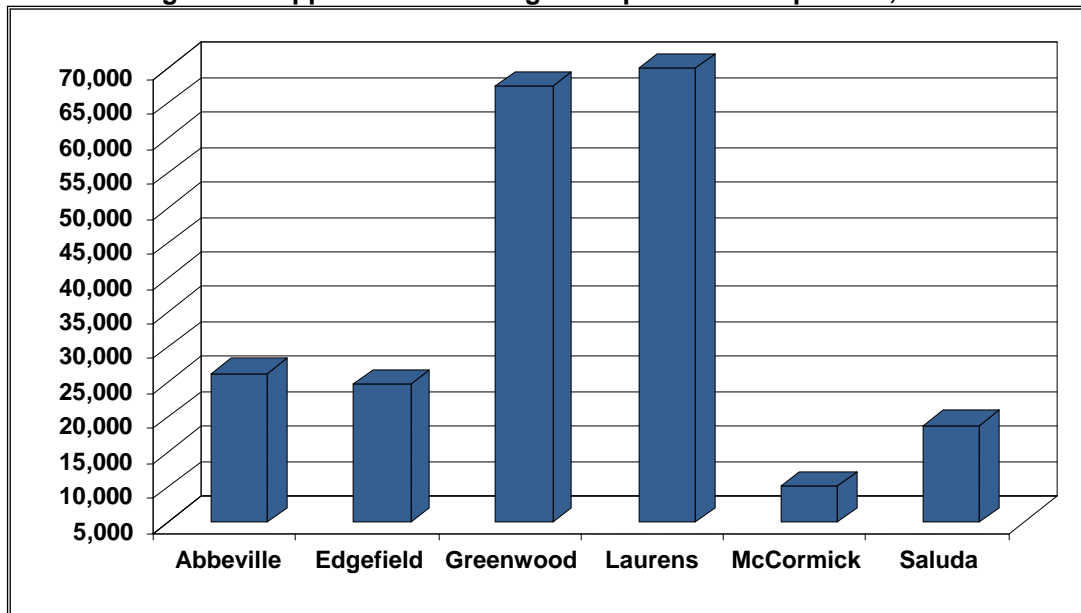
County	1980	1990	2000	2004	2006
Abbeville	22,627	23,862	26,197	26,308	25,935
Edgefield	17,528	18,375	24,595	24,794	25,261
Greenwood	57,847	59,567	66,271	67,519	68,213
Laurens	52,214	58,092	69,576	70,218	70,374
McCormick	7,797	8,868	9,958	10,133	10,226
Saluda	16,150	16,357	19,181	18,870	19,059
Region Total	174,163	187,111	215,778	217,842	219,068
State Population	3,121,820	3,486,703	4,012,012	4,198,068	4,321,249

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

The two most populated counties in the Upper Savannah Region are Greenwood and Laurens Counties (Figure 3-2). The counties comprise the following proportion of the population in the Upper Savannah Region: Laurens County (32%), Greenwood County (31%), Abbeville County (12%), Edgefield County (12%), Saluda County (9%), and McCormick County (5%).

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Figure 3-2 Upper Savannah Region Population Comparison, 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

Greenwood County is the most densely populated county in the Upper Savannah Region having a population density of 145.5 persons per square mile which is an increase from 130.8 persons per square mile in 1990 (Figure 3-3). In 2000, Greenwood County ranked 14th of 46 counties in South Carolina in population density.

Figure 3-3 Upper Savannah Region Population Density Comparison, 2000

County	Population	Land Area (Sq. Mi.)	Density (Person/Sq. Mi.)	State Rank (of 46)
Abbeville	26,197	508	51.6	33
Edgefield	24,595	501.9	49.0	34
Greenwood	66,271	455.5	145.5	14
Laurens	69,576	713.1	97.6	21
McCormick	9,958	359.5	27.7	45
Saluda	19,181	451.3	42.5	37
Upper Savannah Region	215,778	2989.3	72.2	N/A

Source: S.C. Statistical Abstract, 2005

3.2.2 Age

Age is one of the most defining characteristics of a population. Age is an important determining factor in assessing the present and future needs of a community based on the aging trend in the community. In 2000, the Upper Savannah Region had a median age of 37.0 years (See Figure 3-4). This is an increase of 1.5 years over the median age of 35.5 reported in 1990 (See Figure 3-5). The median age of the Upper Savannah Region is comparable to the South Carolina median age of 35.4 years. The increase in the median age of the population in the Upper Savannah Region can be attributed to increased life expectancy, the aging of the baby boom generation, and the increase in older people choosing the region to retire in.

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**Figure 3-4 Upper Savannah Region
County Percentage of Population by Age Group, 2000**

Age Group	Abbeville	Edgefield	Greenwood	Laurens	McCormick	Saluda	Region
Under 5	6.7%	6.0%	6.9%	6.6%	4.2%	6.5%	6.5%
5-19	21.6%	21.3%	21.8%	21.7%	17.5%	21.5%	21.5%
20-34	18.9%	21.6%	21.0%	19.8%	18.9%	19.1%	20.2%
35-64	38.1%	40.3%	36.6%	38.7%	42.8%	38.4%	38.3%
Over 65	14.7%	10.9%	13.7%	13.2%	16.5%	14.5%	13.5%
Median Age	36.9	35.6	35.2	36.2	41.1	37.0	37.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

**Figure 3-5 Upper Savannah Region
County Percentage of Population by Age Group, 1990**

Age Group	Abbeville	Edgefield	Greenwood	Laurens	McCormick	Saluda	Region
Under 5	8.5%	7.9%	8.0%	7.3%	5.6%	6.5%	7.6%
5-19	21.5%	22.6%	25.3%	23.8%	23.7%	22.8%	23.8%
20-34	18.9%	22.8%	24.5%	24.1%	28.6%	21.3%	23.5%
35-64	33.2%	34.2%	28.4%	30.3%	28.2%	35.0%	30.8%
Over 65	18.0%	12.4%	13.8%	14.4%	14.0%	14.4%	14.4%
Median Age	36.0	34.1	35.6	35.7	35.3	36.1	35.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

3.2.3 Race

Race is another defining characteristic of a population. Race is an important element because it provides a measure of the diversity of a community. The minority population is considered to be made up of persons of African American, Native American/Hawaiian, Hispanic, and Asian or Pacific Islander races. The data presented in the following tables is compiled from U.S. Census data from the census years of 1990 and 2000 (See Figures 3-6 and 3-7).

**Figure 3-6 Upper Savannah Region
County Percentage of Population by Race, 2000**

Racial Group	Abbeville	Edgefield	Greenwood	Laurens	McCormick	Saluda	Region
White	68.3%	56.8%	65.6%	71.6%	44.8%	65.8%	65.9%
African American	30.3%	41.5%	31.7%	26.2%	53.9%	30.0%	31.8%
Native American/Hawaiian	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Hispanic	0.8%	2.0%	2.9%	1.9%	0.9%	7.3%	2.5%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.3%	0.7%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

**Figure 3-7 Upper Savannah Region
County Percentage of Population by Race, 1990**

Racial Group	Abbeville	Edgefield	Greenwood	Laurens	McCormick	Saluda	Region
White	68.1%	53.3%	69.2%	71.4%	41.1%	66.5%	66.6%
African American	31.6%	46.3%	30.2%	28.2%	58.5%	33.1%	33.0%
Native American/Hawaiian	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Hispanic	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

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The Upper Savannah Region is becoming more diversified as its population increases. The region overall has experienced a slight decrease in the population growth of White and African American persons, a moderate increase in the population growth of Asian persons, and explosive population growth of Hispanic persons. Of the 46 counties in South Carolina, Greenwood County is ranked 6th in the state based on the percentage of Hispanic population and Saluda County is ranked 1st.

3.2.4 Poverty

In 1989, the Upper Savannah Region had 15.6% of its population living below the poverty level (See Figure 3-8). This was slightly higher than the 14.9% of the population of South Carolina living below the poverty level. By 1999, the Upper Savannah Region had reduced the number of persons living in poverty by 4.7% to 14.9% of the population living below the poverty level. Overall, the Upper Savannah Region currently has a higher level of persons living in poverty as compared to the entire state. It should be noted that four counties within the region have made significant gains in reducing poverty between the years of 1989 and 1999.

**Figure 3-8 Upper Savannah Region
County Percentage of Persons Living Below the Poverty Level, 1989-1999**

County	1989	% of Pop.	1999	% of Pop.	% Change
Abbeville	3,110	13.0%	3,485	13.3%	2.1%
Edgefield	3,026	16.5%	3,407	13.9%	-15.9%
Greenwood	8,873	14.9%	9,080	13.7%	-8.0%
Laurens	7,529	13.0%	9,648	13.9%	7.0%
McCormick	1,705	19.2%	1,526	15.3%	-20.3%
Saluda	2,925	17.9%	2,951	15.4%	-14.0%
Upper Savannah Region	29,157	15.6%	32,046	14.9%	-4.7%
South Carolina	517,793	14.9%	547,869	13.7%	-8.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

3.2.5 Income

The 1999, the median household income in the Upper Savannah Region was \$33,961 (See Figure 3.9). This is an increase over the median household income of \$22,680 in 1989. The median household income of the Upper Savannah Region increased 49.7% over the ten year period of 1989-1999. Although the median household income for South Carolina is higher than that of the Upper Savannah Region, the rate of increase in the median household income is higher than that of South Carolina.

As a measure of how each county in the Upper Savannah Region compares to other 46 counties in South Carolina in regards to the median household income, they are ranked as follows: Saluda County (16th), Edgefield County (18th), Greenwood County (20th), Laurens County (22nd), Abbeville County (27th), and McCormick County (29th).

**Figure 3-9 Upper Savannah Region
County Median Household Income, 1989-1999**

County	1989	1999	% Change	State Rank
Abbeville	\$ 23,170	\$ 32,635	40.9%	27
Edgefield	\$ 23,021	\$ 35,146	52.7%	18
Greenwood	\$ 23,584	\$ 34,702	47.1%	20
Laurens	\$ 24,905	\$ 33,933	36.2%	22
McCormick	\$ 19,226	\$ 31,577	64.2%	29
Saluda	\$ 22,176	\$ 35,774	61.3%	16
Upper Savannah Region	\$ 22,680	\$ 33,961	49.7%	N/A
South Carolina	\$ 26,256	\$ 37,082	41.2%	N/A

Source: South Carolina Office of Research & Statistics, 2009.

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3.2.6 Birth & Death Rates

Birth rates are a measure of how many live births per 1,000 persons occur in a community. Measuring birth rates is important because it helps determine the rate of natural growth of a population in a community. In 2000, the birth rate in the Upper Savannah Region was 9.9 per 1,000 persons (See Figure 3-10). This is a 3.9% decrease from the 1990 birth rate of 10.3 per 1,000 persons. While South Carolina has experienced an increase in the birth rate between the census years 1990 and 2000, the Upper Savannah Region has experienced a decreasing birth rate in the same period of time.

**Figure 3-10 Upper Savannah Region
County Birth Rate per 1,000 Population, 1990-2000**

County	1990	2000	% Change
Abbeville	14.4	12.8	-11.1%
Edgefield	16.2	11.7	-27.8%
Greenwood	15.7	14.4	-8.3%
Laurens	15.5	11.8	-23.9%
McCormick	13.1	9.6	-26.7%
Saluda	14.2	13.4	-5.6%
Upper Savannah Region	15.3	12.8	-16.3%
South Carolina	16.8	13.9	-17.3%

Source: South Carolina DHEC, 2009.

Death rates are a measure of how many deaths per 1,000 persons occur in a community. Measuring death rates helps determine the rate of natural decline in a community. In 2000, the death rate in the Upper Savannah Region was 9.9 deaths per 1,000 persons (See Figure 3-11). This is a 3.9% decrease from the 1990 death rate of 10.3 deaths per 1,000 persons. While South Carolina has experienced an increase in the death rate between the census years of 1990 and 2000, the Upper Savannah Region has experienced a decreasing death rate in the same period of time.

**Figure 3-11 Upper Savannah Region
County Death Rate per 1,000 Population, 1990-2000**

County	1990	2000	% Change
Abbeville	10.4	8.8	-15.4%
Edgefield	9.8	8.0	-18.4%
Greenwood	10.7	10.6	-0.9%
Laurens	9.7	10.2	5.2%
McCormick	11.7	9.7	-17.1%
Saluda	10.6	10.5	-0.9%
Upper Savannah Region	10.3	9.9	-3.9%
South Carolina	8.5	9.2	8.2%

Source: South Carolina DHEC, 2009.

3.2.7 Education

Educational attainment is the level of education a person has completed. Measuring educational attainment in a community helps determine the strength of the education system and its impact on local economies. In 2000, approximately 70% of persons aged 25+ in the Upper Savannah Region had a minimum of a high school diploma which is lower than the South Carolina average of 76.3% (See Figure 3-12).

The Upper Savannah Region is home to a number of higher education institutions. Abbeville County is home to Erskine College, Greenwood County is home to Lander University, and Laurens County is home to Presbyterian College. Additionally, all six counties in the Upper Savannah Region are served by Piedmont Technical College with campuses located in each county.

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Of the six counties in the Upper Savannah Region, Greenwood County has the highest percentage of persons holding an Associates Degree or higher. As Greenwood County is the business, educational, and medical center of the Upper Savannah Region it is expected that there would be higher levels of college graduates living in Greenwood County and working in these fields.

**Figure 3-12 Upper Savannah Region
County Educational Attainment Percentage of Population Age 25+, 2000**

Education Level	Abbeville	Edgefield	Greenwood	Laurens	McCormick	Saluda	Region	State
Less than 9th Grade	11.9%	12.0%	10.1%	12.6%	14.0%	11.6%	11.7%	8.3%
9th-12th Grade-No Diploma	18.0%	16.6%	16.8%	19.7%	19.9%	19.1%	18.2%	15.4%
High School Diploma or GED	35.9%	35.4%	29.7%	35.0%	30.5%	38.6%	33.7%	30.0%
Some College-No Degree	15.0%	17.9%	16.4%	15.4%	14.1%	12.8%	15.6%	19.3%
Associates Degree	6.4%	5.5%	8.0%	5.7%	5.6%	5.9%	6.5%	6.7%
Bachelor Degree	8.1%	9.0%	13.2%	8.0%	10.2%	8.8%	9.9%	13.5%
Graduate Degree +	4.6%	3.5%	5.7%	3.7%	5.8%	3.1%	4.5%	6.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

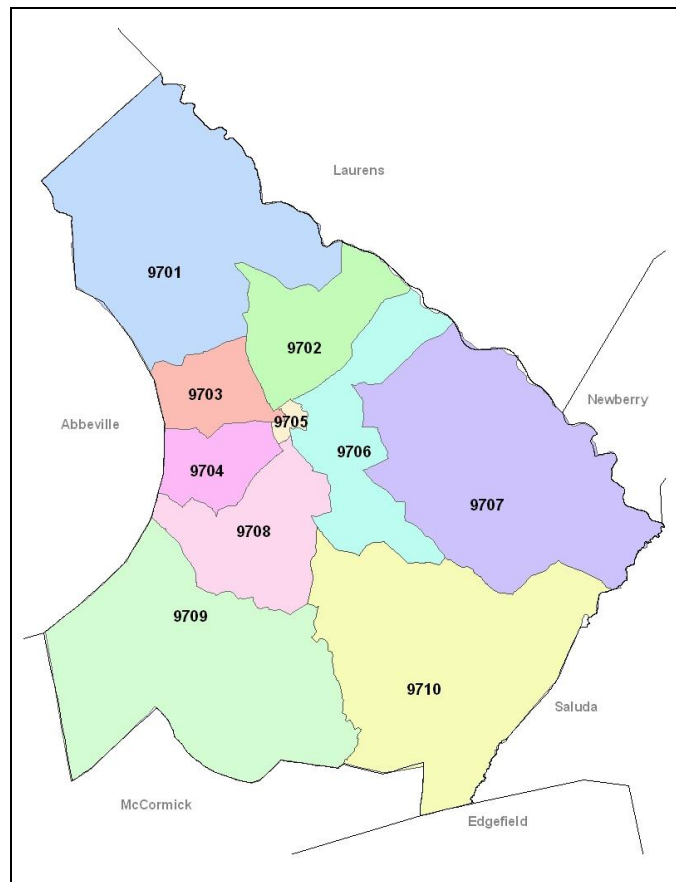
3.3 Greenwood County

Greenwood County is a 455.53 square mile political jurisdiction bounded by Laurens, Newberry, Saluda, Edgefield, McCormick, and Abbeville Counties. The northern and eastern portions of the county are predominantly rural with islands of residential and industrial development throughout. The southern portion of the county is also rural, but consists mostly of forested land. The central portion of the county is the most developed as the City of Greenwood is located here.

Greenwood County is divided into 10 census tracts for population analysis by the U.S. Census Bureau. Each census tract is designated by a four digit number by the U.S. Census Bureau and the tracts are described as follows (See Figure 3-13):

Census Tract 9701	Ware Shoals, Shoals Junction, Hodges, Cokesbury, Dalewood
Census Tract 9702	North Greenwood, North Coronaca, Greenwood Airport
Census Tract 9703	Northwest Greenwood, Harris
Census Tract 9704	West Greenwood, Salak
Census Tract 9705	Grendel, New Haven
Census Tract 9706	South Greenwood, South Coronaca, Pucketts Ferry, Matthews
Census Tract 9707	Ninety Six, Dyson
Census Tract 9708	Promised Land
Census Tract 9709	Callison, Verdery, Bradley, Troy
Census Tract 9710	Epworth, Phoenix, Kirksey, Gaines

Figure 3-13 Greenwood County Census Tracts, 2000



Source: Greenwood County Planning Department, 2009.

3.3.1 Population

The population of Greenwood County in 2000 was 66,271 persons. Census tract 9702 had the greatest population, while census tract 9709 was the least populated of the county census tracts (See Figure 3-14). The population of Greenwood County increased 10.9% from 1990 to 2000 and many of the census tracts experienced a significant rate of growth in the same time period. In 2000, the population of Greenwood County ranked 19th of 46 counties in South Carolina. As the census tract locations have changed over time only a comparison from the census years of 1990 and 2000 were possible in order to make an accurate comparison.

Typically, urban areas are the densest areas of population concentration. The most urban census tract in Greenwood County is census tract 9705 as it is the most densely populated census tract with 3,289 persons per square mile (Figure 3-15). This is in stark contrast with census tracts 9709 and 9710 which are the least densely populated census tracts with 35 and 24 persons per square mile, respectively.

Another indicator of population density is the distance a person travels to work. Individuals traveling within a given commute time show where individuals are working. The population of Greenwood County typically travels anywhere from 10-19 minutes to work. Greenwood County has the shortest commute time than any other county in South Carolina as reported in the 2000 Census. Of Greenwood County residents, 62.2% of the population travels 19 minutes or less to work. From a community standpoint, urban census tracts had shorter home-to-work distance ratios than those of a more rural nature.

**Figure 3-14 Greenwood County
Population by Census Tract, 1990-2000**

Census Tract	1990	2000	% Growth
9701	7,886	8,169	3.6%
9702	7,670	10,332	34.7%
9703	8,243	9,096	10.3%
9704	6,293	6,852	8.9%
9705	6,304	5,756	-8.7%
9706	6,349	7,411	16.7%
9707	7,108	6,977	-1.8%
9708	6,589	7,502	13.9%
9709	1,530	2,085	36.3%
9710	1,595	2,091	31.1%
Total	61,557	68,271	10.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

**Figure 3-15 Greenwood County
Population Density by Census Tract, 2000**

Census Tract	2000 Population	Area Sq. Mi.	Density Pop./Sq. Mi.
9701	8,169	80.09	102
9702	10,332	26.56	389
9703	9,096	13.93	653
9704	6,852	12.86	533
9705	5,756	1.75	3,289
9706	7,411	33.53	221
9707	6,977	84.06	83
9708	7,502	30.25	248
9709	2,085	59.57	35
9710	2,091	87.13	24
Total	66,271	429.72	154

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

3.3.2 Age

Age is an important determining factor in assessing the present and future needs of a community based on the aging trend in the community. The median age for Greenwood County was 35.2 years in the year 2000 (See Figure 3-16), which is a slight decrease from the median age of 35.6 in the year 1990 (See Figure 3-17). Of the individual census tracts, Tract 9705 was the youngest with a median age of 30.6 years and Tract 9701 was the oldest with a median age of 38.1 years.

The largest segment of a population is typically made up of the groups of persons aged 20-64 years, often referred to as the working population. This segment of the population increased to 55.9% of the population in 2000 from 55.3% of the population in 1990. However, it should be noted that more of the working population are in the 35-64 age group in the year 2000 than in 1990. This indicates that there is a slight aging trend within the age group for the county, which should continue given the increases in life expectancy, aging of the baby boom generation, and the increase in retirement age persons selecting Greenwood County to retire in.

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**Figure 3-16 Greenwood County
Census Tract Percentage Population by Age Group, 2000**

Age Group	9701	9702	9703	9704	9705	9706	9707	9708	9709	9710	County
Under 5	6.6%	7.2%	5.7%	6.5%	7.7%	7.1%	6.4%	8.2%	6.9%	7.5%	6.7%
5-19	21.7%	20.1%	20.9%	22.0%	23.1%	22.7%	22.4%	23.5%	20.0%	22.1%	21.2%
20-34	17.4%	24.0%	23.5%	19.0%	24.8%	21.3%	18.4%	19.6%	20.1%	18.1%	20.4%
35-64	40.3%	38.1%	33.3%	37.8%	31.9%	35.3%	39.8%	33.5%	38.2%	41.4%	35.5%
65+	14.0%	10.6%	16.6%	14.7%	12.4%	13.6%	13.0%	15.3%	14.9%	11.0%	13.3%
Median Age	38.1	34.2	34.9	37.1	30.6	34.2	37.1	34.0	36.9	36.4	35.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

**Figure 3-17 Greenwood County
Census Tract Percentage of Population by Age Group, 1990**

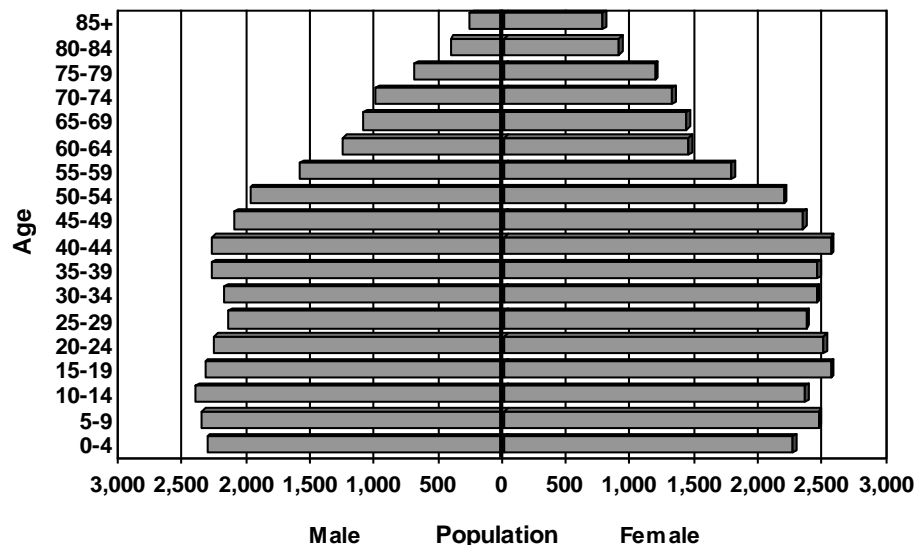
Age Group	9701	9702	9703	9704	9705	9706	9707	9708	9709	9710	County
Under 5	6.6%	6.6%	6.0%	6.1%	9.2%	6.7%	7.2%	7.7%	6.5%	7.5%	6.7%
5-19	21.2%	20.6%	20.2%	22.5%	25.0%	22.3%	23.3%	22.6%	21.7%	21.3%	21.3%
20-34	21.3%	23.2%	26.3%	17.6%	24.8%	21.0%	22.4%	21.5%	20.3%	22.5%	22.2%
35-64	36.1%	38.3%	31.2%	36.9%	29.1%	35.4%	34.7%	30.9%	37.3%	34.5%	33.1%
65+	14.8%	9.9%	16.4%	15.6%	11.9%	13.2%	12.4%	16.1%	14.2%	13.7%	13.4%
Median Age	36.6	34.5	36.9	37.2	32.6	35.9	34.7	35.9	36.8	35.8	35.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

3.3.3 Population Pyramid

An indicator of the aging trend of a community is a population pyramid (See Figure 3-18). The population pyramid divides the population into five-year age groups and further divides the age groups into male and female categories. The population pyramid for Greenwood County shows that there is a larger population of persons aged 35-44 years of age than any single age category immediately above or below it. This potentially means that the age groups of 25-34 years will have more persons to support as the 35-44 year age group reaches retirement age. Additionally, the older age groups have a higher percentage of females in the population due to natural variations in life expectancy. An aging population can place demands on a community in both economic and social regards.

**Figure 3-18 Greenwood County
Population Pyramid by Age & Sex, 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

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3.3.4 Race

Another defining characteristic of a population is that of race. This is important because it provides a measure of the diversity of a community. The minority population is considered to be made up of persons of African American, Native American/Hawaiian, Hispanic, and Asian or Pacific Islander races. The data presented in the following tables is compiled from U.S. Census data from the census years of 1990 and 2000 (See Figures 3-19 and 3-20).

Greenwood County is becoming more diversified as its population increases. The county overall has experienced a slight decrease in the population growth of White persons, a slight growth in African American persons, a moderate increase in the population growth of Native American/Hawaiian and Asian persons, and rapid population growth of Hispanic persons. Of the 46 counties in South Carolina, Greenwood County is ranked 6th in the state based on the percentage of Hispanic populations.

**Figure 3-19 Greenwood County
Census Tract Percentage of Population by Race, 2000**

Racial Group	9701	9702	9703	9704	9705	9706	9707	9708	9709	9710	County
White	73.3%	75.7%	83.8%	72.9%	13.2%	57.2%	67.2%	54.8%	69.3%	86.4%	65.6%
African American	25.6%	20.8%	13.1%	24.7%	79.3%	41.0%	31.8%	42.8%	30.4%	12.3%	31.7%
Native American/Hawaiian	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Hispanic	0.4%	1.9%	1.7%	3.3%	15.1%	1.7%	0.8%	2.9%	0.3%	0.8%	2.9%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.1%	2.1%	1.5%	0.7%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%	0.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

**Figure 3-20 Greenwood County
Census Tract Percentage of Population by Race, 1990**

Racial Group	9701	9702	9703	9704	9705	9706	9707	9708	9709	9710	County
White	73.8%	85.7%	91.1%	77.5%	9.9%	68.8%	70.2%	64.7%	58.6%	82.0%	69.2%
African American	25.9%	12.9%	8.0%	22.1%	90.0%	30.6%	29.6%	34.1%	41.4%	17.6%	30.2%
Native American/Hawaiian	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%
Hispanic	0.4%	0.8%	0.6%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.9%	0.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

3.3.5 Poverty

In 1989, Greenwood County had 14.9% of its population living below the poverty level (See Figure 3-21). This was equal to the 14.9% of the population of South Carolina living below the poverty level. By 1999, Greenwood County had reduced the number of persons living in poverty by 8.0% to 13.7% of the population living below the poverty level. Overall, Greenwood County currently has the same level of persons living in poverty as compared to the entire state.

In 1999, Greenwood County ranked 29th out of 46 counties for the percentage of its population living in poverty. However, the majority of the census tracts in Greenwood County have a lower rate of persons living in poverty as compared to the state. It should be noted that most of the census tracts have experienced a reduction in the number of persons living in poverty between the years of 1989 and 1999.

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**Figure 3-21 Greenwood County
Census Tract Percentage of Persons Living in Poverty, 1989-1999**

Census Tract	1989	% of Pop.	1999	% of Pop.	% Growth
9701	1,179	15.0%	827	10.1%	-32.3%
9702	466	6.1%	1,028	9.9%	63.8%
9703	865	10.5%	815	9.0%	-14.6%
9704	693	11.0%	944	13.8%	25.1%
9705	2,191	34.8%	1,800	31.3%	-10.0%
9706	795	12.5%	913	12.3%	-1.6%
9707	950	13.4%	784	11.2%	-15.9%
9708	1,353	20.5%	1,647	22.0%	6.9%
9709	208	13.6%	204	9.8%	-28.0%
9710	173	10.8%	118	5.6%	-48.0%
County	8,873	14.9%	9,080	13.7%	-8.0%
South Carolina	517,793	14.9%	547,869	13.7%	-8.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

3.3.6 Income

The 1999, the median household income in Greenwood County was \$34,702 (See Figure 3-22). This is an increase over the median household income of \$23,584 in 1989. The median household income in Greenwood County increased 47.1% over the ten year period of 1989-1999. Although the median household income for South Carolina is higher than that of Greenwood County, the rate of increase in the median household income in Greenwood County is higher than that of South Carolina. In 1999, the median household income in Greenwood County ranks 20th out of the 46 counties in South Carolina. Of the individual census tracts, census tract 9704 had the highest household median income of \$53,466 in 1999 and census tract 9705 had the lowest household median income of \$19,548; a significant difference of \$33,918.

**Figure 3-22 Greenwood County
Census Tract Median Household Income, 1989-1999**

Census Tract	1989	1999	% Change
9701	\$ 23,365	\$ 32,587	39.5%
9702	\$ 34,344	\$ 41,639	21.2%
9703	\$ 28,246	\$ 39,190	38.7%
9704	\$ 28,906	\$ 53,466	85.0%
9705	\$ 12,360	\$ 19,548	58.2%
9706	\$ 25,556	\$ 34,430	34.7%
9707	\$ 24,069	\$ 41,159	71.0%
9708	\$ 16,655	\$ 25,569	53.5%
9709	\$ 22,222	\$ 40,061	80.3%
9710	\$ 22,171	\$ 37,054	67.1%
County	\$ 23,584	\$ 34,702	47.1%
South Carolina	\$ 26,256	\$ 37,082	41.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

3.3.7 Education

Educational attainment is the level of education a person has completed. Measuring educational attainment in a community helps determine the strength of the education system and its impact on local economies. In 2000, approximately 73% of persons aged 25+ in Greenwood County had a minimum of a high school diploma which is lower than the South Carolina average of 76.3% (See Figure 3-23). According to the South Carolina Statistical Abstract, Greenwood County ranks 11th of 46 counties in the percentage of persons aged 25+ with a Bachelor Degree or higher.

Of the individual tracts, Census Tract 9703 is the most educated tract with 84.9% of its population aged 25+ achieving a minimum of a high school diploma. This tract also has the highest percentage of its population with a bachelor degree or higher at 36.4%. Census Tract 9705 of all the tracts has the greatest

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percentage of population without a high school diploma. Only 49.3% of its population aged 25+ has a high school diploma. This tract also has the lowest percentage of its population with a bachelor degree or higher at 4.5%.

Greenwood County has educational opportunities at every level from elementary school to college. Greenwood County is home to Lander University and Piedmont Technical College. The children of Greenwood County are served by Greenwood School District 50, Ware Shoals School District 51, and Ninety Six School District 52. The combined districts consist of 12 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, and 4 high schools. Greenwood County is also home to a number of private schools.

**Figure 3-23 Greenwood County
Census Tract Educational Attainment Percentage of Population Age 25+, 2000**

Education Level	9701	9702	9703	9704	9705	9706	9707	9708	9709	9710	County
Less than 9th Grade	11.0%	5.5%	5.9%	8.7%	22.7%	9.0%	9.3%	14.4%	11.4%	10.4%	10.1%
9th-12th Grade-No Diploma	17.4%	10.4%	9.2%	13.8%	29.0%	20.2%	17.4%	23.4%	16.8%	21.1%	16.8%
High School Diploma or GED	35.1%	25.2%	24.5%	25.0%	30.0%	32.9%	35.3%	31.1%	28.7%	33.6%	29.7%
Some College-No Degree	15.7%	22.2%	16.5%	16.9%	10.3%	16.4%	15.3%	12.5%	23.2%	14.9%	16.4%
Associates Degree	8.7%	9.3%	7.5%	8.4%	3.5%	7.7%	9.3%	6.8%	8.7%	11.5%	8.0%
Bachelor Degree	8.2%	18.7%	24.5%	18.2%	3.4%	10.4%	9.4%	9.5%	9.8%	5.9%	13.2%
Graduate Degree +	3.9%	8.7%	11.9%	9.0%	1.1%	3.3%	4.1%	2.4%	1.2%	2.5%	5.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

3.4 Municipalities

Greenwood County is home to five incorporated areas: the City of Greenwood, the Town of Ware Shoals, the Town of Ninety Six, the Town of Hodges, and the Town of Troy. The City of Greenwood is located in the central portion of the county, Ware Shoals is located in the northernmost portion of the county and also has portions of the town located in Abbeville and Laurens Counties, Ninety Six is located in the central eastern portion of the county, Hodges is located in the north-western part of the county, and Troy is located in the south-western corner of the county.

3.4.1 Population

The *City of Greenwood* is the largest municipality in Greenwood County and is the seat of County Government. In the year 2000, the City of Greenwood had a population of 22,071 which is a 6.1% increase from 1990 (See Figure 3-24). This growth rate is less than the 11.3% growth rate of Greenwood County and the 15.07% growth rate of South Carolina experienced overall in the same period of time. The City of Greenwood is the 16th most populous city in South Carolina and is comparable to the cities of Aiken, Anderson, and Myrtle Beach. In 2000, the City of Greenwood was the 9th fastest growing city in South Carolina.

The *Town of Ware Shoals* is the second most populated municipality in Greenwood County with a population of 2,363 in 2000. The Town of Ware Shoals is unique in that the town is located where Abbeville, Greenwood, and Laurens Counties meet and therefore contribute to the population count of three counties. However, the majority of the population in the Town of Ware Shoals is located in Greenwood County. The Town of Ware Shoals has experienced a slight decline in its population in the years of 1990-2000.

The *Town of Ninety Six* is the third most populated municipality in Greenwood County with a population of 1,936 in 2000; this is a decrease of -7.8% from the 1990 population. The Town of Ninety Six is the oldest settlement in Greenwood County.

The *Town of Hodges* is the fourth most populated municipality in Greenwood County with a population of just 125 in 2000. The Town of Hodges has experienced a 26.4% increase in its population since 1990, but this rate of increase should be approached with caution due its very small population making any change in the population significant.

The Population Element

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The *Town of Troy* is the least populated municipality in Greenwood County with a population of just 105 in 2000. The Town of Troy has experienced a -25.0% decline in its population since 1990, but the rate of decrease should be approached with caution due to its very small population making any change in the population significant.

**Figure 3-24 Greenwood County
Municipality Population, 1990-2000**

Municipality	1990	2000	% Growth
Greenwood	20,807	22,071	6.1%
Ware Shoals	2,497	2,363	-5.4%
Ninety Six	2,099	1,936	-7.8%
Hodges	125	158	26.4%
Troy	140	105	-25.0%
County	59,567	66,271	11.3%
South Carolina	3,486,703	4,012,012	15.07%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

3.4.2 Age

The age of a population is an important factor in determining the present and future needs of a community. In 2000, the City of Greenwood has the youngest population with a median age of 31.6 years and Troy has the oldest population with a median age of 44.8 years (See Figure 3-25). In 1990, the City of Greenwood had the youngest population with a median age of 35.9 years and Hodges has the oldest population with a median age of 42.7 years (See Figure 3-26).

The largest segment of a population is typically made up of the groups of persons aged 20-64 years which are often referred to as the working population. This segment of the population increased to 57.6% of the county population in 2000 from 57.2% of the county population in 1990. However, it should be noted that more of the working population are in the 35-64 age group in the year 2000 than in 1990. This indicates that there is a slight aging trend within the age group for the municipalities in the county which should continue given the increases in life expectancy, aging of the baby boom generation, and the increase in retirement age persons selecting the municipalities in Greenwood County to retire in.

**Figure 3-25 Greenwood County
Municipality Percentage of Population by Age, 2000**

Age Group	Greenwood	Ware Shoals	Ninety Six	Hodges	Troy	County
Under 5	7.3%	7.3%	6.8%	5.1%	3.8%	6.9%
5-19	22.3%	21.2%	20.6%	22.2%	17.1%	21.8%
20-34	24.9%	16.5%	18.4%	18.4%	21.0%	21.0%
35-64	30.2%	35.4%	37.1%	38.6%	34.3%	36.6%
65+	15.2%	19.6%	17.1%	15.8%	23.8%	13.7%
Median Age	31.6	38.8	38.2	38.8	44.8	35.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

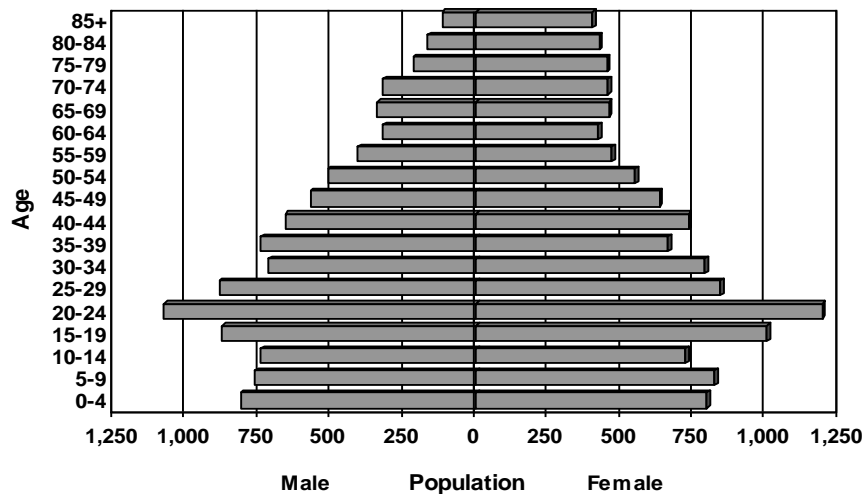
**Figure 3-26 Greenwood County
Municipality Percentage of Population by Age, 1990**

Age Group	Greenwood	Ware Shoals	Ninety Six	Hodges	Troy	County
Under 5	7.2%	6.1%	5.2%	5.6%	6.4%	6.9%
5-19	22.1%	19.4%	21.3%	18.4%	19.3%	22.1%
20-34	25.4%	19.8%	20.7%	14.4%	16.4%	23.0%
35-64	28.5%	34.1%	33.4%	37.6%	38.6%	34.2%
65+	16.7%	20.7%	19.3%	24.0%	57.9%	13.8%
Median Age	35.9	39.6	38.8	42.7	39.6	35.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

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**Figure 3-27 City of Greenwood
Population Pyramid by Age & Sex, 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

3.4.3 Race

Another important factor of a population is that of race. This is important because it provides a measure of the diversity of a community. The minority population is considered to be made up of persons of African American, Native American/Hawaiian, Hispanic, and Asian or Pacific Islander races. The data presented in the following tables is compiled from U.S. Census data from the 1990 & 2000 Census (See Figures 3-28 & 3-29).

**Figure 3-28 Greenwood County
Municipality Percentage of Population by Race, 2000**

Racial Group	Greenwood	Ware Shoals	Ninety Six	Hodges	Troy	County
White	50.1%	78.3%	76.5%	88.6%	71.4%	65.6%
African American	45.5%	20.1%	22.7%	8.2%	28.6%	31.7%
Native American/Hawaiian	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	1.3%	0.0%	0.2%
Hispanic	6.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%	1.9%	0.0%	0.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

**Figure 3-29 Greenwood County
Municipality Percentage of Population by Race, 1990**

Racial Group	Greenwood	Ware Shoals	Ninety Six	Hodges	Troy	County
White	56.1%	86.3%	80.3%	84.0%	56.4%	69.2%
African American	43.1%	13.5%	19.7%	16.0%	42.9%	30.2%
Native American/Hawaiian	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Hispanic	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

The City of Greenwood is the most racially diverse municipality in Greenwood County with 50.1% White persons, 45.5% African American persons, 6.5% Hispanic persons, and 1.1% combined Native American/Hawaiian and Asian persons. The Towns of Ware Shoals, Ninety Six, and Troy all have significant percentages of African American persons. The Town of Hodges is the least diverse municipality with only 11.3% of the population identified as being of a minority group.

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The municipalities in Greenwood County are becoming more diversified as their populations increase. Between the census years of 1990 and 2000, the municipalities for the most part, have experienced a moderate increase in their minority populations. The Hispanic population is the most rapidly increasing minority population in the municipalities.

3.4.4 Poverty

In 1989, all of the municipalities in Greenwood County except Ninety Six and Troy had higher rates of persons living in poverty as compared to the 14.9% rate of South Carolina (See Figure 3-30). By 1999, Ware Shoals, Ninety Six, and Hodges had significantly reduced the number of persons living in poverty in those municipalities. Despite an increase in the number of persons in poverty in Troy, the current poverty rate is well below that of South Carolina.

The City of Greenwood has the highest rate of persons living in poverty out of all five municipalities. Some of the reasons for this are that it is the largest municipality in Greenwood County, lower wage jobs, increased access to low income services, and people moving to the City of Greenwood from the other municipalities.

**Figure 3-30 Greenwood County
Municipality Percentage of Population Living in Poverty, 1989-1999**

Municipality	1989	% of Pop.	1999	% of Pop.	% Change
Greenwood	4,437	21.3%	5,089	23.1%	8.1%
Ware Shoals	467	18.7%	363	15.4%	-17.9%
Ninety Six	279	13.3%	162	8.4%	-37.0%
Hodges	39	31.2%	26	16.5%	-47.3%
Troy	0	0.0%	8	7.6%	760.0%*
County	8,873	14.9%	9,080	13.7%	-8.0%
South Carolina	517,793	14.9%	547,869	13.7%	-8.0%

***Result Skewed Due to Small Population Size

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

3.4.5 Income

Of the individual municipalities in Greenwood County, Hodges had the highest median household income of \$41,536 in 1999 and the City of Greenwood had the lowest median household income of \$26,284 for the same year (See Figure 3-31). Of the five municipalities only Hodges had a higher median household income than the South Carolina median household income of \$37,082. Even though the median household incomes of the City of Greenwood, Ware Shoals, and Ninety Six were lower than the median household income of South Carolina, the rate of change in the median household income of the municipalities was at or exceeded the rate of change for South Carolina. Only Troy had a significantly lower rate of increase in the median household income of all the municipalities when compared to the rate of increase for South Carolina.

**Figure 3-31 Greenwood County
Municipality Median Household Income, 1989-1999**

Municipality	1989	1999	Change
Greenwood	\$ 18,683	\$ 26,284	40.7%
Ware Shoals	\$ 19,297	\$ 29,531	53.0%
Ninety Six	\$ 22,684	\$ 33,423	47.3%
Hodges	\$ 25,625	\$ 41,563	62.2%
Troy	\$ 28,750	\$ 31,875	10.9%
County	\$ 23,584	\$ 34,702	47.1%
South Carolina	\$ 26,256	\$ 37,082	41.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

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3.4.6 Education

Educational attainment is the level of education a person has completed. Measuring educational attainment in a community helps determine the strength of the education system and its impact on local economies. In 2000, approximately 73% of persons aged 25+ in Greenwood County had a minimum of a high school diploma which is lower than the South Carolina average of 76.3% (See Figure 3-32). Of the individual municipalities Ninety Six, Hodges, and Troy have the same or higher percentage of persons with a minimum of a high school diploma than the South Carolina average. The City of Greenwood, Ware Shoals, Ninety Six all fall short of meeting the South Carolina average of 18.9% of persons aged 25+ attaining a minimum of a bachelor degree. Hodges and Troy exceed the statewide average with 22.8% and 23.3% of their population respectively attaining a bachelor degree or higher.

Greenwood County and its municipalities are home to Lander University, Limestone College, and Piedmont Technical College. The children of Greenwood County and its municipalities are served by Greenwood School District 50, Ware Shoals School District 51, and Ninety Six School District 52. The combined districts consist of 12 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, and 4 high schools. Greenwood County and its municipalities are also home to a number of private schools.

**Figure 3-32 Greenwood County
Municipality Educational Attainment Percentage of Population Age 25+, 2000**

Education Level	Greenwood	Ware Shoals	Ninety Six	Hodges	Troy	County
Less than 9th Grade	13.4%	12.0%	7.0%	3.8%	6.8%	10.1%
9th-12th Grade-No Diploma	20.5%	19.5%	16.8%	15.2%	17.8%	16.8%
High School Diploma or GED	29.3%	34.0%	32.0%	30.5%	42.5%	29.7%
Some College-No Degree	15.0%	14.5%	18.1%	16.2%	9.6%	16.4%
Associates Degree	6.1%	8.1%	11.7%	11.4%	0.0%	8.0%
Bachelor Degree	11.1%	8.1%	9.5%	17.1%	15.1%	13.2%
Graduate Degree +	4.6%	3.7%	4.8%	5.7%	8.2%	5.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009.

3.5 Population Projections

The information presented in this section shows the diversity of population trends within the municipalities and the county. As stated previously, this data is based on U.S. Census Bureau information. Population projections are important in order to project the future needs of the communities of Greenwood County. These projections also serve as a guidepost for future decision-making.

The following projections are based on five different models: the linear model, the exponential model, the state population projection approach, the modified linear model based on natural increase and net migration, and the modified exponential model based on natural increase and net migration.

3.5.1 Linear Model

The first is the linear model that expands the growth rate as a straight line projection. The linear model takes the average change of the past and applies it to future time periods. The linear model is best expressed by averaging the population differences between 1970 to 1980, 1980 to 1990, and 1990 to 2000 by decade and increasing the population by decade to 2030. An example formula for this model would be:

$$(((2000 \text{ Pop} - 1970 \text{ Pop})/3 \text{ Decades}) + ((2000 \text{ Pop} - 1980 \text{ Pop})/2 \text{ Decades}) + ((2000 \text{ Pop} - 1990 \text{ Pop})/1 \text{ Decade}))/3$$

3.5.2 Exponential Model

The exponential model is a compound growth rate model that uses the rate of change between population periods and compounds this by each time period. The model utilizes the growth rates between 1970 and 1980, 1980 and 1990 and 1990 and 2000 to project future populations.

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3.5.3 State Population Projection Model

The state population approach is based on population projections from the South Carolina State Budget and Control Board Office of Research and Statistics. These figures are only available at the county level.

3.5.4 Modified Linear & Exponential Models

Both the modified linear and modified exponential models are based on natural increase and net migration rates from 2000 to 2002. These models utilize birth rates, death rates and migration of population to determine future population changes. Both models are also based on information available at the county level. An example of the modified linear model would be similar to the following formula:

$$[(\text{Births from 2000 to 2002}) - (\text{Deaths from 2000 to 2002}) + (\text{Net Migration from 2000 to 2002})] * 5$$

An example of the modified exponential model would be similar to the following formula:

$$1 + [((\text{Births from 2000 to 2002}) - (\text{Deaths from 2000 to 2002}) + (\text{Net Migration from 2000 to 2002})) / 2000 \text{ Population}] * 2000 \text{ Pop}$$

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3.5.5 Greenwood County

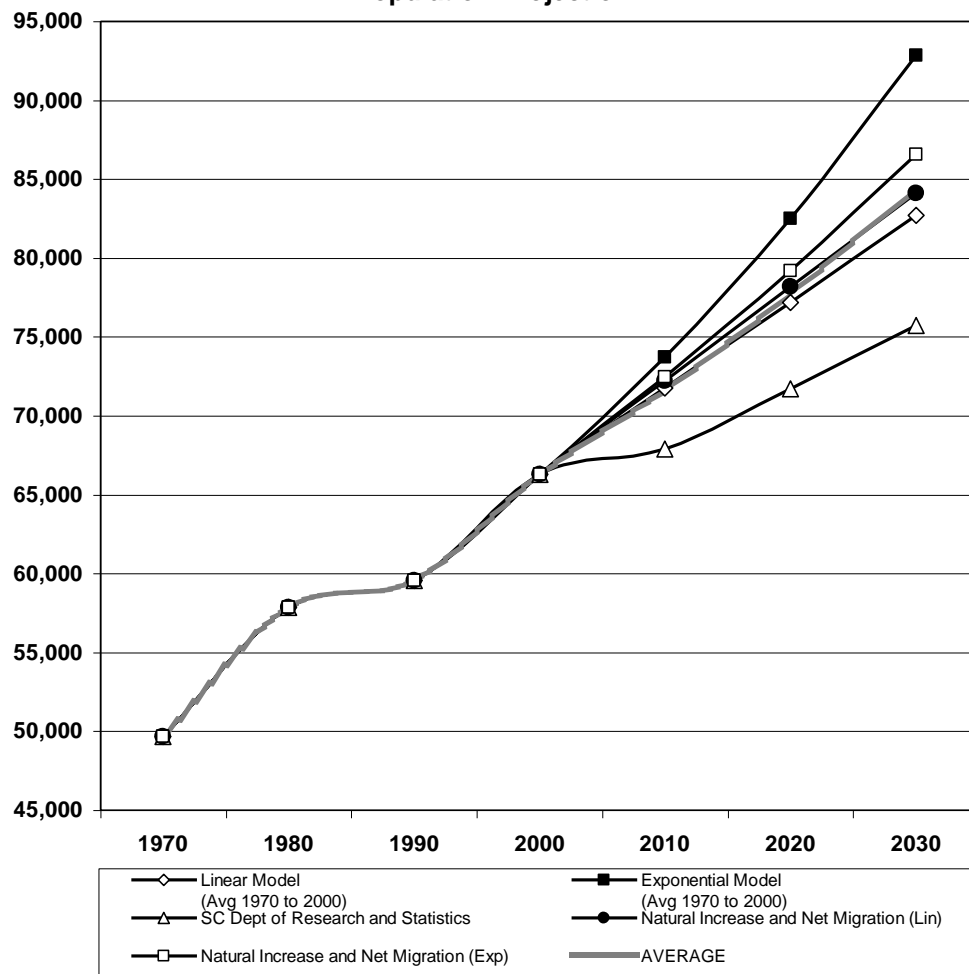
Greenwood County has shown substantial growth over the last thirty years. Greenwood County has experienced a moderate increase in population every decade as demonstrated by an annualized growth rate of 1.1% from 1970 to 2000. Five models have been used in projecting the population growth of Greenwood County. Since each of these models are based on various aspects of growth, the model projections have been averaged together for a better representation of the future population (See Figures 3-33 and 3-34). Using the average of the projection models Greenwood County is expected to grow 27.3% between the years of 2000 and 2030 at an annualized growth rate of 0.9%.

**Figure 3-33 Greenwood County
Projected Population Growth Model Data**

Projection Model	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Linear Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	49,686	57,847	59,567	66,271	71,752	77,156	82,725
Exponential Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	49,686	57,847	59,567	66,271	73,710	82,478	92,824
SC Dept of Research and Statistics	49,686	57,847	59,567	66,271	67,900	71,700	75,700
Natural Increase and Net Migration (Lin)	49,686	57,847	59,567	66,271	72,221	78,171	84,121
Natural Increase and Net Migration (Exp)	49,686	57,847	59,567	66,271	72,439	79,180	86,549
Average of Projection Models	49,686	57,847	59,567	66,271	71,604	77,737	84,384

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Greenwood City/County Planning Department, 2006.

**Figure 3-34 Greenwood County
Population Projection**



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3.5.6 The City of Greenwood

The City of Greenwood has grown in population at a steady rate since 1970. With the city serving as a regional commercial center, continued growth in the employment sector through economic development and increased growth of the city through annexations of property, this trend should continue at a moderate increase each year. The City of Greenwood grew 4.76% and experienced an annualized population growth rate of 0.16% from 1970 to 2000.

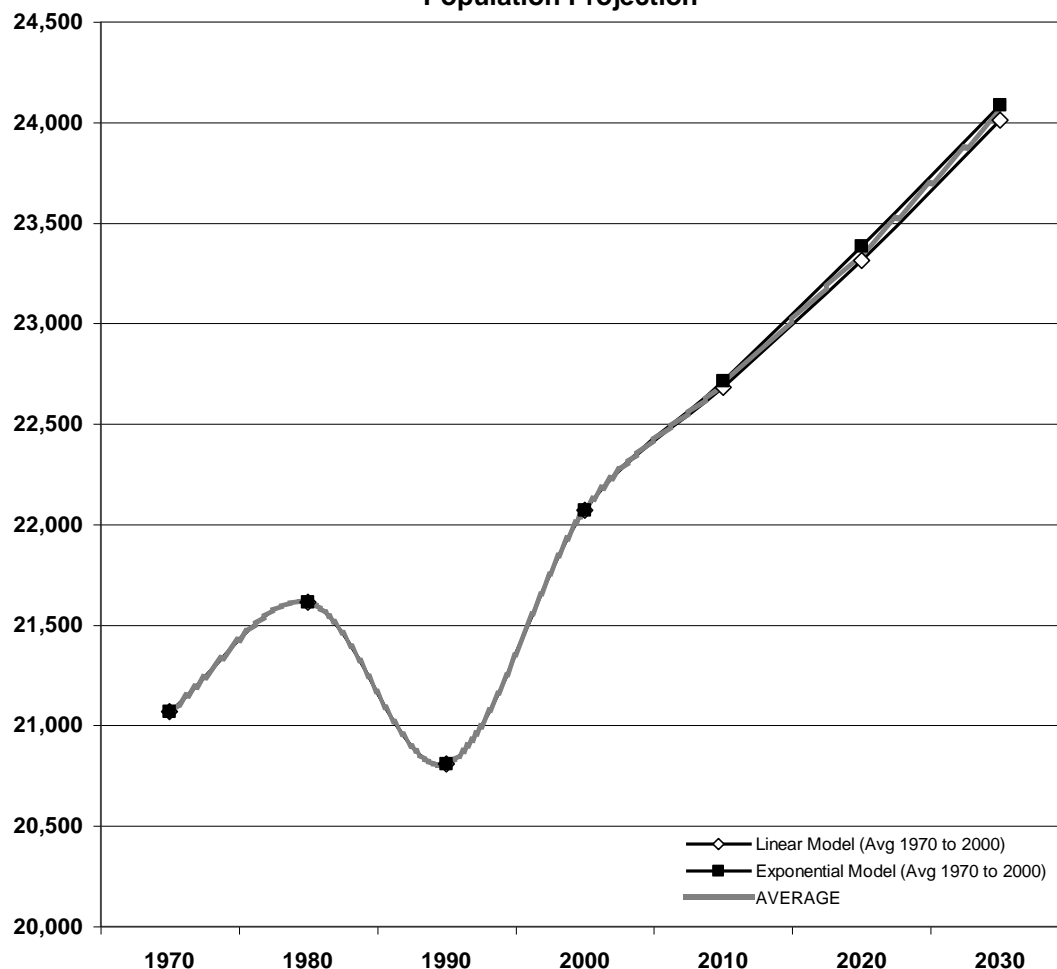
Two models have been used in projecting the population growth. Since each of these models are based on various aspects of growth, the model projections have been averaged together for a better representation of the future population (See Figures 3-35 and 3-36). Using the average of the two projection models, the City of Greenwood is expected to grow 9.0% between the years of 2000 and 2030 at an annualized growth rate of 0.3%.

**Figure 3-35 City of Greenwood
Projected Population Growth Model Data**

Projection Model	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Linear Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	21,069	21,613	20,807	22,071	22,680	23,314	24,011
Exponential Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	21,069	21,613	20,807	22,071	22,713	23,384	24,087
Average	21,069	21,613	20,807	22,071	22,697	23,349	24,049

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Greenwood City/County Planning Department, 2006.

**Figure 3-36 City of Greenwood
Population Projection**



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3.5.7 The Town of Ware Shoals

The population projection for the Town of Ware Shoals shows a moderate decrease in population over the next 25 years. However, the Town of Ware Shoals is in a geographically advantageous location situated midway between the City of Greenwood and Greenville and positioned along the shoals of the Saluda River. With a push for revitalization within the town, the declining population trend could be reversed. The Town of Ware Shoals experienced a -4.7% decline in growth at an annualized rate of -0.16% from 1970 to 2000

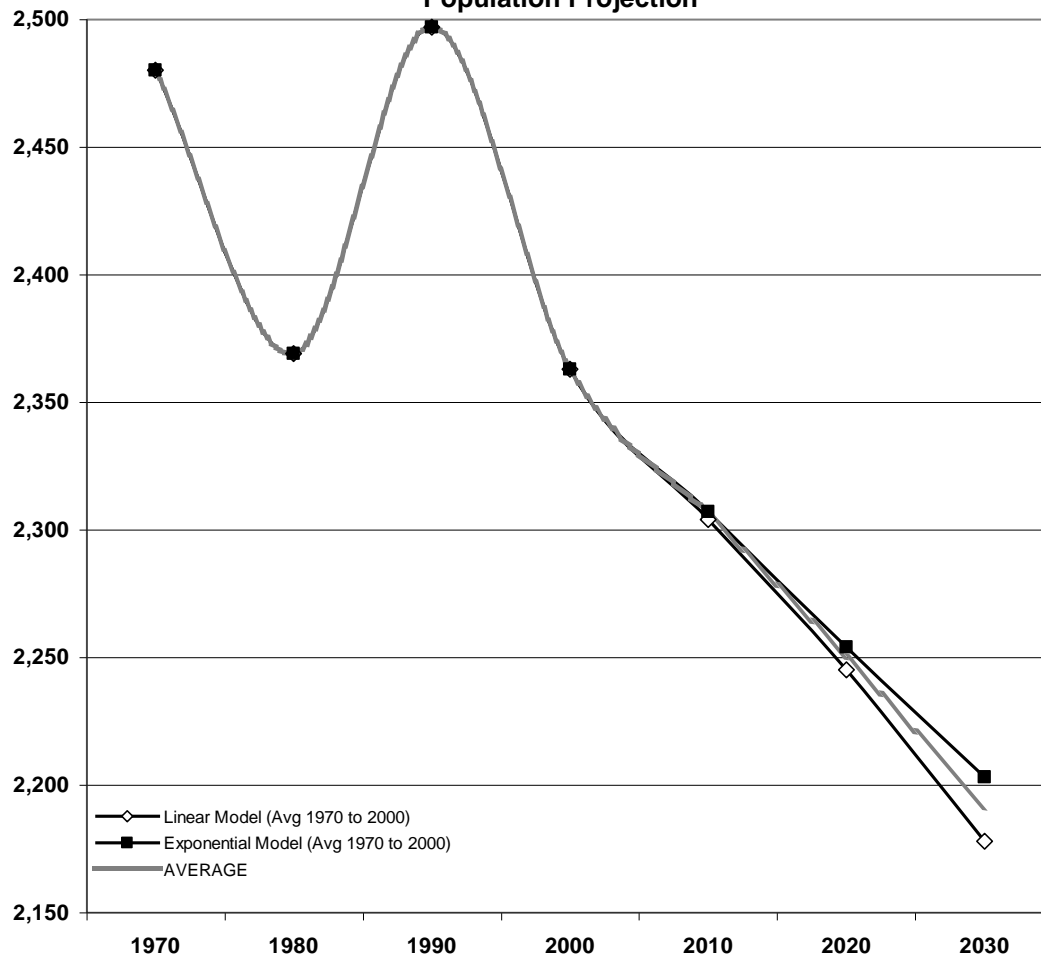
Two models have been used in projecting the population growth. Since each of these models are based on various aspects of growth, the model projections have been averaged together for a better representation of the future population (See Figures 3-37 and 3-38). Using the average of the two projection models, the Town of Ware Shoals is expected to grow 9.0% between the years of 2000 and 2030 at an annualized growth rate of 0.3%.

**Figure 3-37 Town of Ware Shoals
Projected Population Growth Model Data**

Projection Model	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Linear Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	2,480	2,369	2,497	2,363	2,304	2,245	2,178
Exponential Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	2,480	2,369	2,497	2,363	2,307	2,254	2,203
Average	2,480	2,369	2,497	2,363	2,306	2,250	2,191

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Greenwood City/County Planning Department, 2006.

**Figure 3-38 Town of Ware Shoals
Population Projection**



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3.5.8 The Town of Ninety Six

The population projection for the Town of Ninety Six shows a moderate decrease in population over the next 25 years. However, the Town of Ninety Six is a significant historical site and cultural resource. With a push for revitalization within the town, annexation and continued marketing of the historical and cultural aspects of the town, the declining population trend could be reversed. The Town of Ware Shoals experienced a -10.6% decline in growth at an annualized rate of -0.35% from 1970 to 2000.

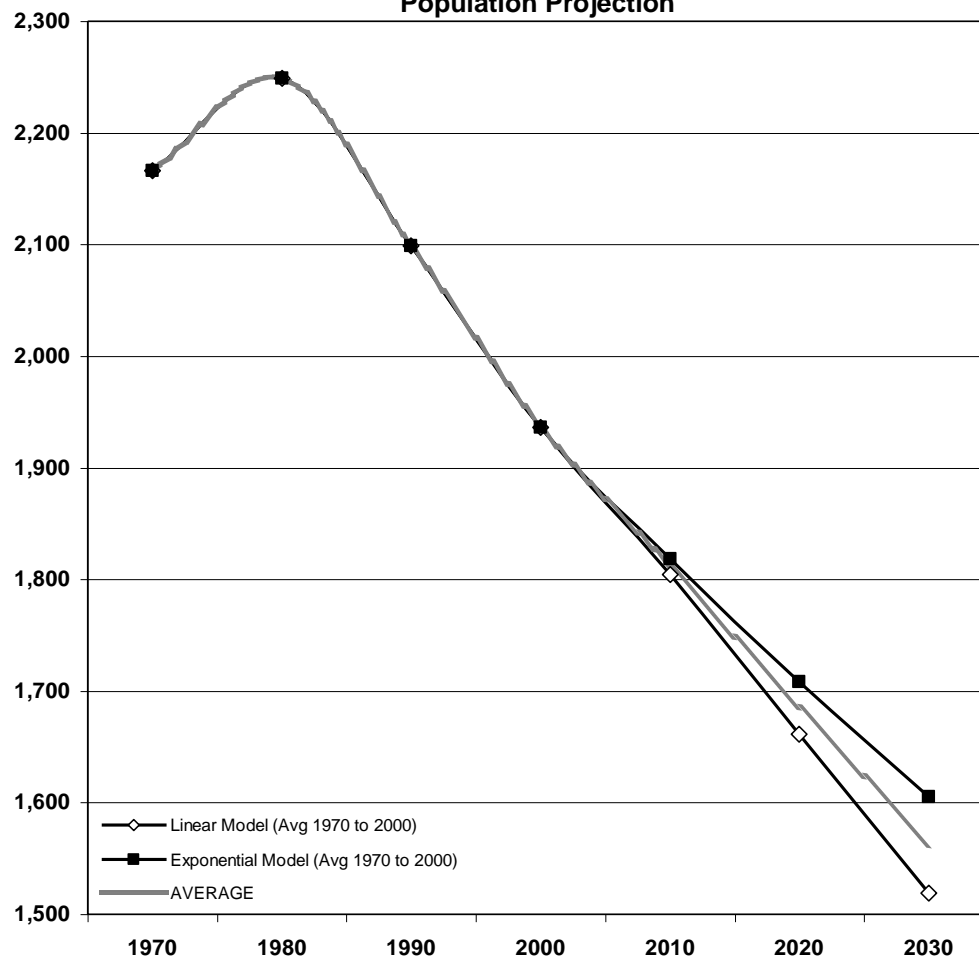
Two models have been used in projecting the population growth. Since each of these models are based on various aspects of growth, the model projections have been averaged together for a better representation of the future population (See Figures 3-39 and 3-40). Using the average of the two projection models, the population of the Town of Ninety Six is expected to decline 19.3% between the years of 2000 and 2030 at an annualized declining rate of -0.64%.

**Figure 3-39 Town of Ninety Six
Projected Population Growth Model Data**

Projection Model	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Linear Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	2,166	2,249	2,099	1,936	1,804	1,661	1,519
Exponential Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	2,166	2,249	2,099	1,936	1,818	1,708	1,605
Average	2,166	2,249	2,099	1,936	1,811	1,685	1,562

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Greenwood City/County Planning Department, 2006.

**Figure 3-40 Town of Ninety Six
Population Projection**



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3.5.9 The Town of Hodges

The population projection for the Town of Hodges shows a moderate increase in population over the next 25 years. The Town of Hodges has not grown in land area so the population has increased through in-migration and natural increases. The Town of Hodges experienced a 68% increase in growth at an annualized rate of 2.27% from 1970 to 2000.

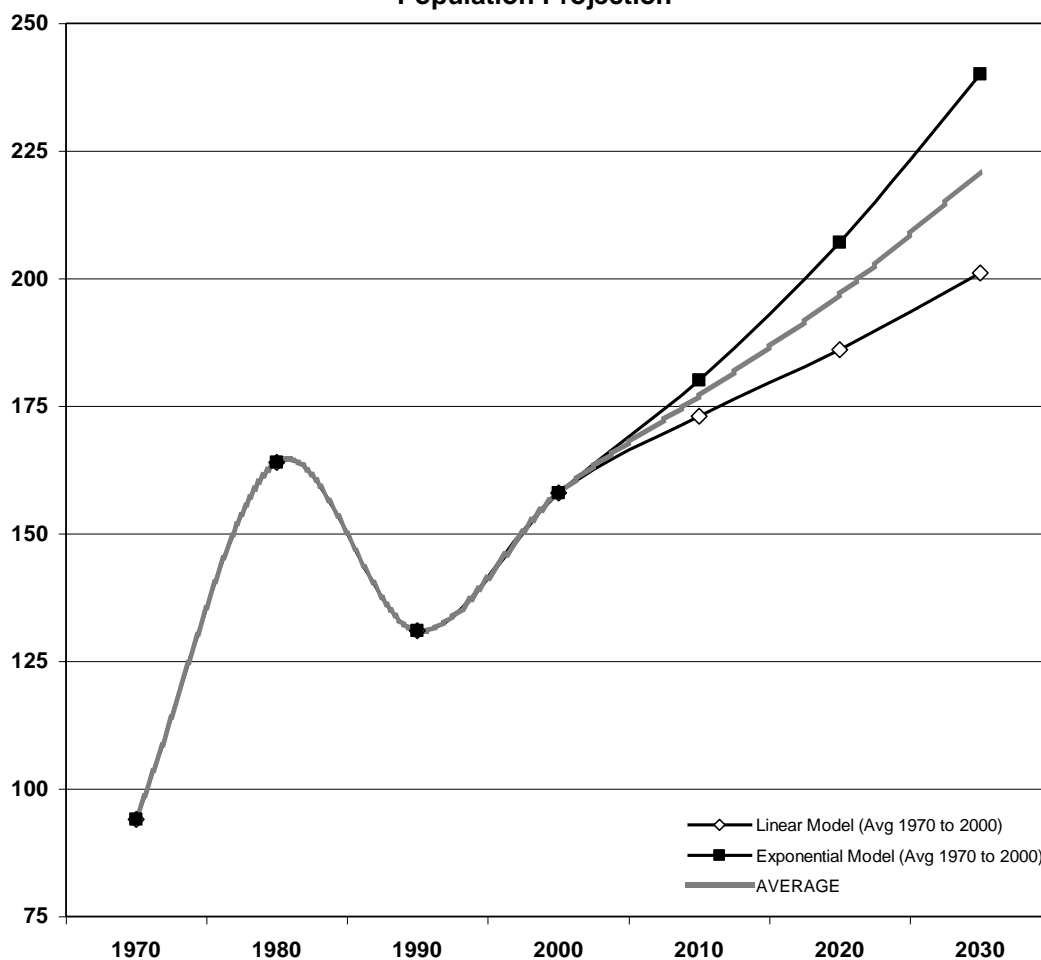
Two models have been used in projecting the population growth. Since each of these models are based on various aspects of growth, the model projections have been averaged together for a better representation of the future population (*See Figures 3-41 and 3-42*). Using the average of the two projection models, the population of the Town of Hodges is expected to grow 39.9% between the years of 2000 and 2030 at an annualized growth rate of 1.33%.

**Figure 3-41 Town of Hodges
Projected Population Growth Model Data**

Projection Model	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Linear Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	94	164	131	158	173	186	201
Exponential Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	94	164	131	158	180	207	240
Average	94	164	131	158	177	197	221

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Greenwood City/County Planning Department, 2006.

**Figure 3-42 Town of Hodges
Population Projection**



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3.5.10 The Town of Troy

The population projection for the Town of Troy shows a steady decrease in population over the next 25 years. The Town of Troy is located in the remote southwestern portion of Greenwood County and is surrounded by the Sumter National Forest and for these reasons the population decline should be expected to continue. Marketing of the community as an outdoor recreation facility to meet the small-scale needs of the community could help reverse this trend. The Town of Troy experienced a -49% decrease in population at an annualized rate of -1.64% from 1970 to 2000.

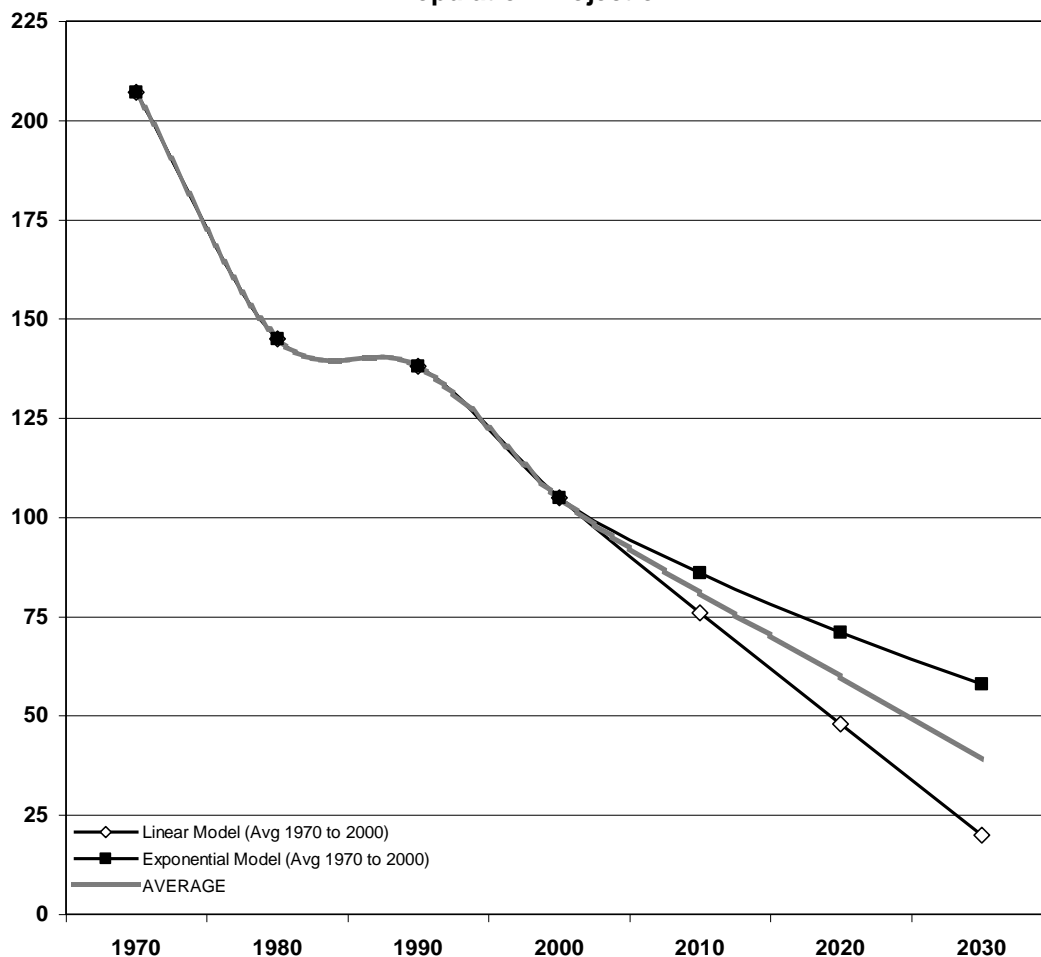
Two models have been used in projecting the population growth. Since each of these models are based on various aspects of growth, the model projections have been averaged together for a better representation of the future population (See Figures 3-43 and 3-44). Using the average of the two projection models, the population of the Town of Troy is expected to decline 62.9% between the years of 2000 and 2030 at an annualized declining rate of -2.10%.

**Figure 3-43 Town of Troy
Projected Population Growth Model Data**

Projection Model	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Linear Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	207	145	138	105	76	48	20
Exponential Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	207	145	138	105	86	71	58
Average	207	145	138	105	81	60	39

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Greenwood City/County Planning Department, 2006.

**Figure 3-44 Town of Troy
Population Projection**



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3.5.11 Unincorporated Areas of Greenwood County

The remaining areas of Greenwood County are the unincorporated portions of the county. Historically, the population has increased in this area at a faster rate than the incorporated portions of the county. With the allure of lower property taxes and a rural setting, the unincorporated areas of Greenwood County grew 67.5% and experienced an annualized population growth rate of 2.25% from 1970 to 2000.

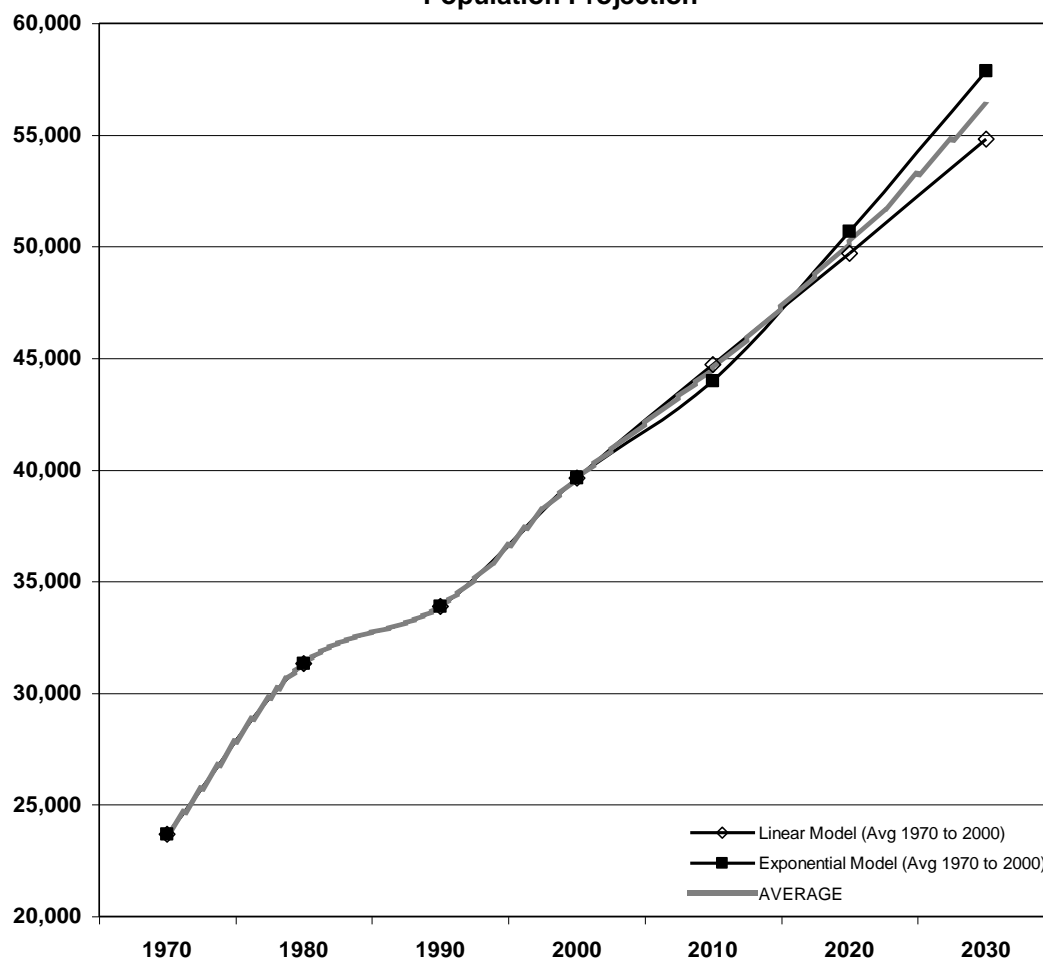
Two models have been used in projecting the population growth. Since each of these models are based on various aspects of growth, the model projections have been averaged together for a better representation of the future population (*See Figures 3-46 and 3-45*). Using the average of the two projection models, the population of the unincorporated areas of Greenwood County is expected to grow 42.1% between the years of 2000 and 2030 at an annualized growth rate of 1.4%.

**Figure 3-45 Unincorporated Areas of Greenwood County
Projected Population Growth Model Data**

Projection Model	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Linear Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	23,670	31,307	33,895	39,638	44,715	49,701	54,796
Exponential Model (Avg 1970 to 2000)	23,670	31,307	33,895	39,638	43,989	50,691	57,848
Average	23,670	31,307	33,895	39,638	44,532	50,196	56,322

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Greenwood City/County Planning Department, 2006.

**Figure 3-46 Unincorporated Areas of Greenwood County
Population Projection**



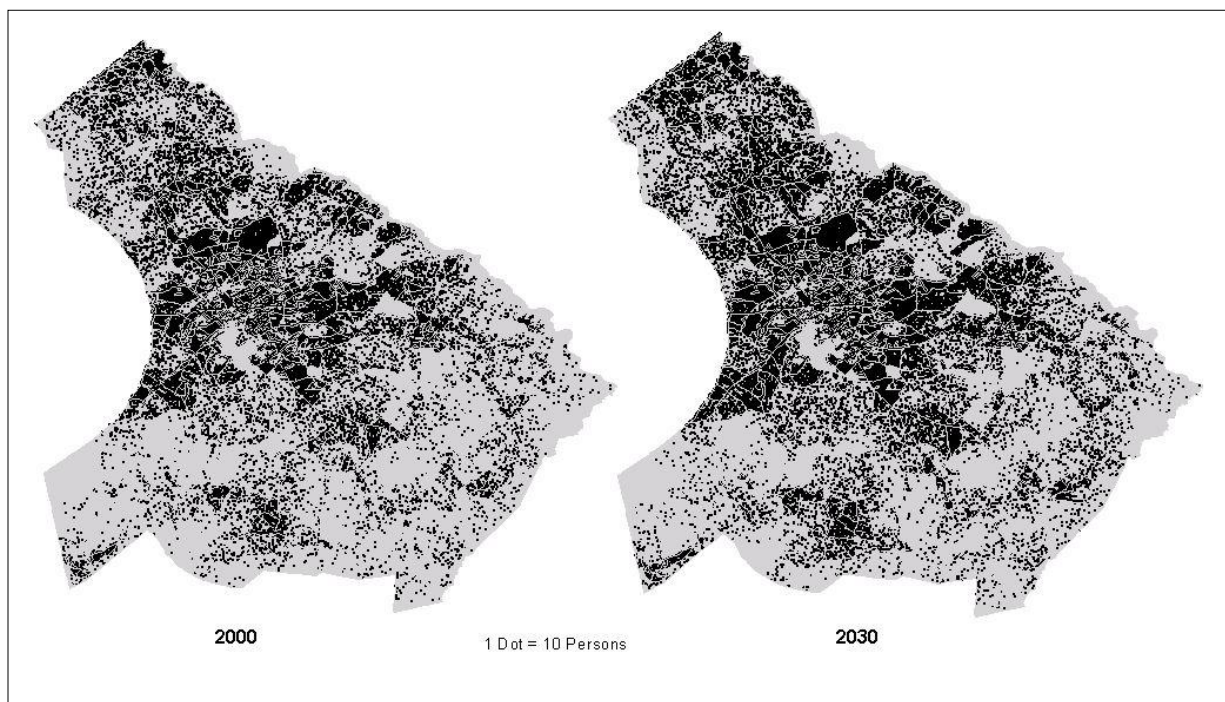
Source: Greenwood City/County Planning Department, 2006.

3.6 Population Density

Another demographic analysis is population density. Population density identifies the location of population at a given period of time. Typically, population density clusters are located in areas of high residential uses which tend to be located near employment centers, infrastructure such as water and sewer lines, and transportation routes. Other factors that can affect the population density is availability of land, natural amenity areas such as lakes and mountains, and natural constraints such as poor soils.

Based on a 15-year trend of population growth, building permit data, and geographic development patterns, Greenwood County is expected to experience population growth in and around the City of Greenwood, areas between Lake Greenwood and SC Highways 246/702, and northern Greenwood County between Ware Shoals and the City of Greenwood. The growth pattern, as shown in Figure 3-47 shows the majority of population growth in the western, northern and eastern portions of the City of Greenwood.

Figure 3-47 Greenwood County Projected Population Density – 2000 and 2030



Source: Greenwood City/County Planning Department, 2009.

3.7 Supplementary Conditions

The United States experienced unprecedented economic conditions in 2008 that were triggered by the collapse of the “sub-prime” residential mortgage market. Its impact throughout the economy was widespread, including the stock market declining by a full one-third of its value; record home mortgage defaults and foreclosures; record declines in new housing starts; sales of existing homes and housing values, generally; business failures led by the banking, automotive and real estate sectors; and a national unemployment rate that rose above 10%.

Locally, while Greenwood County did not appear to directly experience significant numbers of “sub-prime” mortgage failures, it is taking substantially longer to sell existing houses; housing values have declined in some areas by as much as 25%; and permits for single-family houses are down from 258 in 2008 to just 64 in 2009, and 63 in 2010 (annualized); and unemployment has risen from 6.8% in January 2008 to 12.8% in March 2010.

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Economists offer differing opinions with respect to the term that the effects of the current economic conditions will be felt; however, virtually all of them agree that different areas of the country will experience “recovery” at differing rates. In light of the data collected by and available to the county, it would be difficult for Greenwood County to achieve the population projections proposed by any methodology other than that used by the South Carolina Budget and Control Board’s Office of Research & Statistics (ORS). Based on the timeliness and ongoing nature of the local data used by ORS, the recent and current impacts of the national economic conditions are better integrated into its projections of housing units and population growth. The ORS population projected for Greenwood County in 2030 is 77,370 residents, which is almost 17% lower than the highest projection of 92,824 persons (presented in the Exponential Model). This considerable difference is equal to approximately three-quarters of the present population of the City of Greenwood.

The long-term effects of the economic conditions that manifested themselves in 2008 need to be regularly and carefully monitored in this and future updates of the Comprehensive Plan. Ultimately, there is potentially a significant difference in the level of private and public services, infrastructure and facilities required to accommodate 15,000 fewer residents over the next 20 years, and the County needs to maximize consistency and cost-effectiveness in balancing the immediate and long-term needs of its resident population. Frequent evaluation, no less than every five years, should occur to determine the overall population change to ensure accurate data is being presented to decision-makers.

3.8 Conclusion

Over the next thirty years, Greenwood County could experience population growth approaching 30% with the unincorporated portion of the county approaching 45%. These rates of growth are based on historical trends of the population and are conservative estimates that may fluctuate over time based on economic, housing or natural resource conditions. However, Greenwood County and its local governments must be proactive in advanced planning for the necessary foundations to ensure that public services and infrastructure are provided for this growth.

